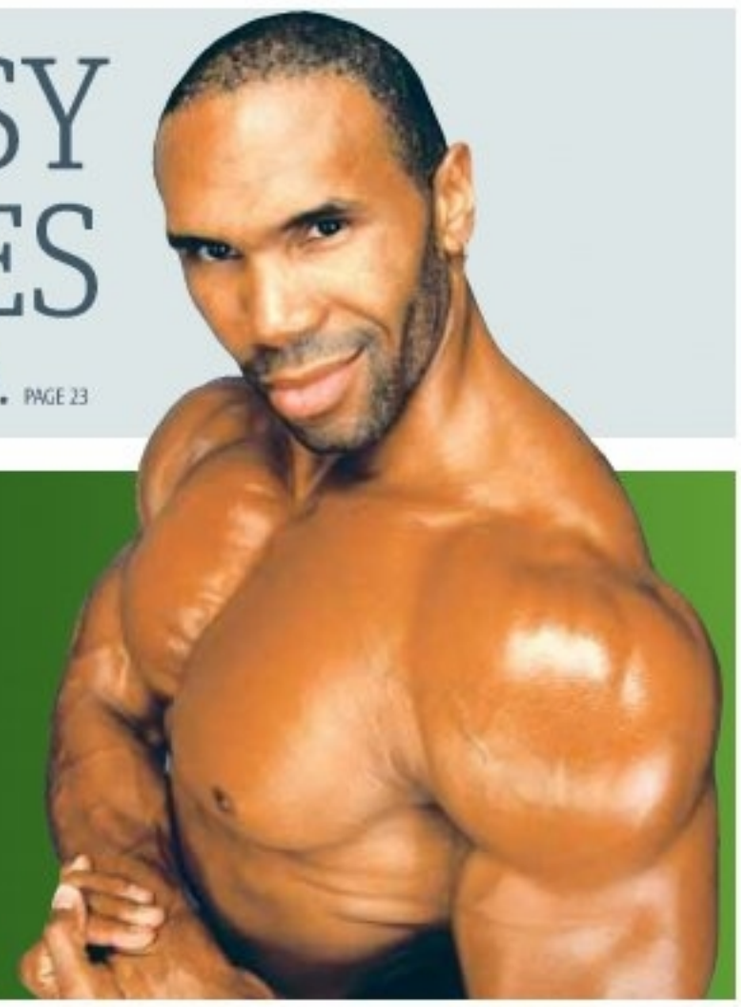
HEY, MACHO MAN — EASY ON THE PROTEIN SHAKES

GUYS, BULKING UP TO THE EXTREME JUST ISN'T THE WAY TO GO. PAGE 23



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Wednesday, September 4, 2013 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

Wrongful death. The family of victim Mary Lea Simpson alleges the Salvation Army store that collapsed on June 5, killing six people — including Simpson's friend — should have never been open that day. **Not properly planned.** The Simpson family's attorney says the property owners "understood there was risk of collapse." PAGE 02

'This could have been avoided'

Makeshift memorials remain three months later at the site of the Center City building collapse. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

No swan song for Jackson at the zoo

PAGE 04

Duplass on the joys of playing a man-child

PAGE 16

JLo, Urban, Connick Jr. become 'Idol' hands

PAGE 12

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1 NEWS

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'VIDEO: Chase Utley finally answers Mac's letter from "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"'

2 'VIDEO: Wild chipmunk attacks cameraman'

3 'VIDEO: Was Daft Punk's "Get Lucky" stolen from YouTube star Zack Kim?'

Correction

In Tuesday's edition, Metro incorrectly stated Allyson Schwartz is running for Philadelphia mayor. Schwartz is running for governor of Pennsylvania. We regret the error.

Family brings wrongful death suit in collapse

Collapse. Salvation Army and Market Street property owners are in "heartbroken" kin's crosshairs.

On the muggy morning of June 5, an under-demolition, four-story brick building toppled onto its neighboring thrift store at the corner of 22nd and Market streets, killing six and injuring 13.

At the tail end of yesterday morning, the family of a victim — 24-year-old Mary Lea Simpson — filed a wrongful death lawsuit, pointing a finger at the Salvation Army and Market Street property owners.

Steve Wigrizer, attorney for the Simpson family, said if building owners Richard Basciano and STB Investments Corp., "had gotten an engineering survey and plan and went about the project the proper way, this could have been avoided."

"Having said that," Wigrizer added, "it was clear in the weeks preceding the collapse that the Salvation Army was well aware of the risk, and they went back and forth with the owners bickering over minutiae, about allowing access to the Salvation Army so as to complete the demolition as safe a way as possible. And they understood there was risk of collapse. And they nevertheless failed to cooperate with the owners, and they permitted the business to stay open.

"So on June 5, that Salvation Army Thrift Shop should not have been opened," Wigrizer said.

The family alleges Simpson, who was an avid figure skater, suffocated underneath a pile of brick and mortar.

Wigrizer said the Salvation Army is a multibillion-dollar organization, and not a mom-and-pop store.

"The Salvation Army should have known better," Wigrizer said.

In Pennsylvania, specific dollar amounts are not sought. The jury decides the appropriate settlement.

Also listed as defendants are Griffin Campbell Construction, architect Plato Marinakos and Sean Benschop (alias Kary Roberts), who operated the excavator that tugged at the unbraced wall.

Benschop is currently incarcerated for allegedly operating the equipment under the influence of marijuana and prescription pain killers.

Several other civil suits, and one criminal case, have also been filed.

Simpson, a 2007 graduate of Haverford High School, was shopping with her best friend, Anne Bryan, also 24, when the buildings in Center City fell. Bryan also died.

Wigrizer said it's been a "tremendously traumatic experience" for the family.

"They are grief-stricken and heartbroken," Wigrizer said.

The scene of the collapse at 22nd and Market streets / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"Once you take out the floors, which they did after they took off the facade, the west wall of that 2138 property was left standing with no support. I mean, that is an egregious departure from good and accepted demolition practices." Wigrizer

TOMMY ROWAN
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Nice day for a lunch break with a view

Workers sitting on a ladder three stories up near the Franklin Institute take a break on a hot day in Center City. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Sentenced

Harlem Boys gang member gets life in prison

A Harlem Boys gang member who served as the lead gunman, supplier and distributor of illegal narcotics was yesterday sentenced to life in prison plus 130 years, officials said.

Philadelphia man Ramel Moten, 29, operated in Bartram Village Housing Development in Southwest Philadelphia. METRO

Nabbed

Two charged in beating death of college student

Two men have been charged with beating a Bucks County native to death near the man's West Virginia college over the weekend.

Kevin M. Figaniak, 21, of Perkasie, died early Sunday at a Pittsburgh hospital. He was found badly beaten near the Wheeling Jesuit University campus early Saturday.

Jarrett Chander, 24, of Winnfield, La., and Craig Peacock, 22, of Clewiston, Fla., have been charged with murder in connection with Figaniak's death, reports say.

Wheeling police and other local authorities arrested the two men at a campsite about 12:15 a.m. yesterday.

The deadly attack happened about 1:45 a.m. Saturday as Figaniak, a lacrosse and hockey player at the Jesuit school, and his friend were assaulted by a group of three or four men as they walked back to the small school's campus from a Wheeling bar.

Figaniak was a graduate of Pennridge High School.

He was a senior business major at Wheeling Jesuit. METRO

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Swan's bumblefoot acupunctured away

Hobblin' cob. To battle a swan's foot infection, the zoo got creative.

Swans today don't know how good they have it: on-call veterinarians, private ponds — and now, weekly acupuncture.

Philadelphia Zoo specialists have been administering the procedure to Jackson, its black-necked swan with a bad wheel.

Dubbed "bumblefoot," pimply sores form at the bottom of the cob's foot, inflame, harden and then crack.

Left untreated, the infection can kill. Alternative treatments are too slow, so the zoo thought outside the box — a common occurrence, apparently.

Jackson's bumblefoot
PHILADELPHIA ZOO

"We are moving a little bit away from the Western medicine that we have concentrated on as a zoo profession." said veterinarian Donna Laleggio.

Zoos have experimented with laser and even chiropractic treatments to ease one malady or another in various species.

Tina Fuoco, acupuncturist to the wild kingdom, said the treatment increases blood flow to damaged area. As a result, Jackson becomes so relaxed, he doesn't fight back.

For about 15 minutes, Jackson is held by an assistant while little silver needles puncture the bumbles on this left foot. He even gets a little high.

"It has to with endorphin release," Fuoco said. "It's somewhat like a runner's high. There's that calming side."

Jackson's next treatment is Friday. Massage is optional.

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Honored

Officer Brian Lorenzo will get hero plaque

A police hero plaque will be unveiled this morning in the Philadelphia Water Department complex on Pennypack Street honoring Philadelphia police officer Brian Lorenzo who died last year after being struck by a drunken driver while on duty.

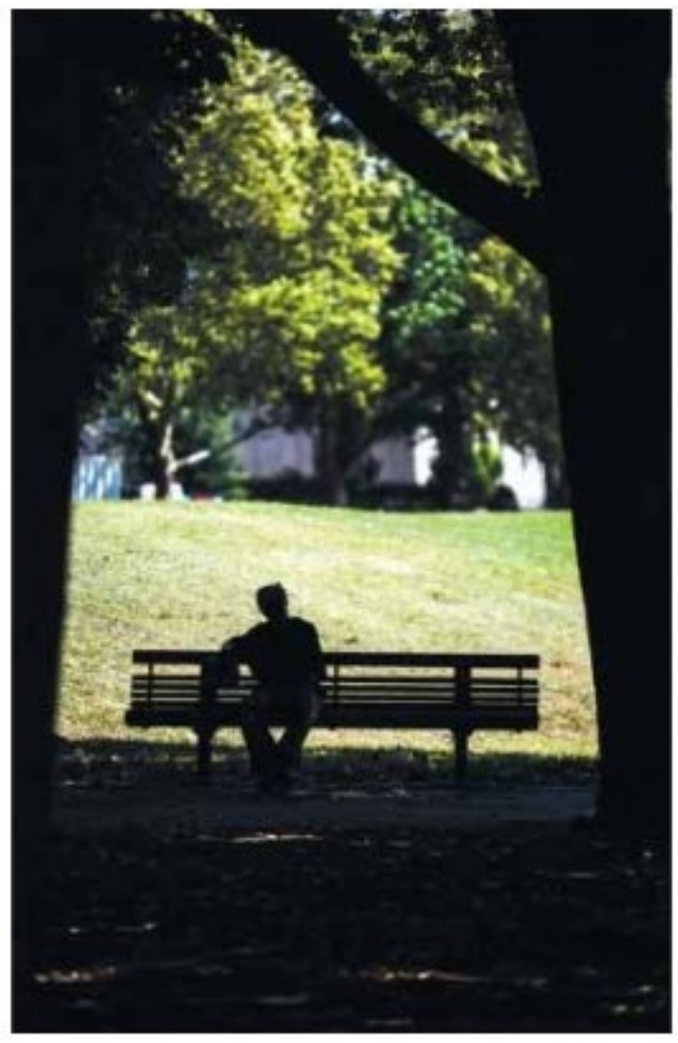
The sponsor of Police Officer Lorenzo's Hero Plaque is James J. Binns. METRO

Grant money

DOT awards $10 million to SEPTA

U.S. Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) announced yesterday that the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded SEPTA a $10 million grant for a program that would separate SEPTA service from CSX freight service on a segment of track on the West Regional Rail Line.

The project is slated to generated more than $75 million and support more than 500 jobs. METRO



Enjoying the weather

A man sits in the shade on a warm day in Philadelphia yesterday. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

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Caught

Second man arrested in cab driver stabbing

The second man involved in the cab driver stabbing in Queen Village over the weekend has been arrested and charged, police said.

Alejandro Gonzalez, 22, was arrested yesterday at his home in the 1100 block of South Ninth Street. He's been charged with aggravated assault, robbery and related charges.

Luis Moreno / PPD

Luis Moreno, 21, also from the 1100 block of South Ninth Street, was too arrested and charged with the same offenses.

Both men allegedly stabbed a cab driver after they got out of the taxi around 1:17 a.m. Monday on the 900 block of South Front Street. The two men made off with $205.

The cab driver flagged down cops at South and Front streets. He suffered 11 superficial stab wounds to his head, arm, chest, hand and neck. He's still listed in stable condition. METRO

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Workers disassemble the Made in America's stages yesterday. /CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

City declares Labor Day weekend fest successful

Rehydrate.
Other than a few dehydrated guests, Made in America sees few problems, says city.

Here's a lesson learned from Made in America year two: Keep 'em hydrated.

"We still have to get the water situation right," said Deputy Mayor Everett Gillison yesterday.

Many festival-goers were understandably dehydrated after seven hours of dancing and drinking in 90-degree weather.

"Maybe even some more electrolytes like Gatorade or whatever," Gillison said. "We got to get the kids to understand that they have to take responsibility for themselves to actually drink the water in order to stay hydrated. Alcohol ... dehydrates you."

But overall, Gillison said, Philly owned it.

"Philadelphia is quickly owning the Labor Day weekend much like we've owned the Fourth of July," he said.

More than 60,000 people passed through the Parkway festival each day.

While official estimates are still about 30 days away, Gillison suspects the city raked in a cool $10 million — the same as last year.

"I look forward to hopefully doing it again next year," he said.

TOMMY ROWAN
tommy.rowan@metro.us

Incidents

Arrests include:

- Someone jumped the fence.
- A fight broke out and the man didn't leave. He was issued a citation.
- Two sexual assaults occurred when two women exited the concert. One suspect is in custody.

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Top US Republicans back Syria strike

Leaving. After two and a half years of war, nearly one Syrian in three has been driven from home.

President Barack Obama won the backing of two top Republicans in Congress in his call for limited U.S. strikes on Syria to punish President Bashar al-Assad for his suspected use of chemical weapons.

Speaking after the United Nations said 2 million Syrians had fled a conflict that posed the greatest threat to world peace since the Vietnam War, Obama said the United States also has a broader plan to help rebels defeat Assad's forces.

In remarks that appeared to question the legality of U.S. plans to strike Syria without U.N. backing, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the use of force is only legal when it is in self-defense or with U.N. Security Council authorization.

He said that if U.N. inspectors confirm the use of chemical weapons in Syria, the Security Council, which has long been deadlocked on the Syrian civil war, should overcome its differences and take action.

Obama met congressional leaders at the White House yesterday to urge a prompt decision and assure them that it did not mean another long war.

REUTERS

Syrian refugees arrive in Turkey at the Cilvegozu crossing gate of Reyhanli, in Hatay. / GETTY IMAGES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PHILADELPHIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) is a participant in the Moving to Work Demonstration Program (MTW). PHA was initially selected to participate in the MTW Program in 2001. In October 2008, PHA entered into an Amended and Restated Moving to Work Agreement ("MTW Agreement") with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"), which has subsequently been further amended.

The MTW Agreement defines the terms and conditions under which PHA is a participant in the MTW Program. The MTW Agreement requires that PHA submit an MTW Annual Plan for HUD review and approval. PHA's current MTW Annual Plan for MTW Year Thirteen (PHA Fiscal Year 2014) was approved by HUD on May 30, 2013.

PHA is seeking public review and comments on two proposed actions relative to the MTW Program:

- **Amendment to the MTW Agreement** – The proposed amendment to the MTW Agreement will provide PHA with additional flexibility in utilizing Replacement Housing Factor funds received by PHA from HUD.
- **Amendment to the MTW Year Thirteen Annual Plan** – The proposed amendment to the MTW Annual Plan will: 1) Establish that PHA may apply to convert one or more public housing sites under the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program and that PHA may utilize MTW Block Grant funds to support the conversion; and, 2) Allow PHA to establish a flexible subsidy program for newly developed or acquiredpublic housing units, subject to HUD review and approval of each transaction.

Additional information regarding the proposed amendments is available from PHA. Copies are available for public review on PHA's website at: www.pha.phila.gov under the "Latest News" section or may be picked up at the following locations:

- **Housing Choice Voucher Program Office:** 2850 Germantown Ave 1st & 2nd Floor
- **Scattered Sites Management Offices:** 3417 Spring Garden Street, 1821 Vineyard St. 3226 McMichael St., 3218 Susquehanna Avenue, 400 W. Huntingdon St.
- **Public Housing Management Offices:** Bartram - 5404 Gibson Drive, Wilson Park - 2500 Jackson St., Raymond Rosen – 2110 N. 23rd St., Blumberg - 2311 W. Jefferson St.

PHA residents, Housing Choice Voucher participants and the general public may attend and provide comments at the Public Hearing described below and/or submit written comments on these proposed actions any time during the comment period. The Public Hearing is scheduled for the following time and location: **August 27, 2013 10 a.m. until noon, 1100 Poplar Street, Philadelphia, PA19123, Multipurpose Room.**

Only comments pertaining to the proposed actions noted above are being solicited. The comment period begins on August 6, 2013 at 12 noon and ends September 5, 2013 at 12 noon.All comments must be received by the end of the comment period. Please send your writtencomments to: **Philadelphia Housing Authority, Office of Policy, Research and Enterprise Planning, Attention: MTW Comment, 1606 Swain St., Philadelphia, PA 19130.**

The Public Hearing is being held in an accessible location. If you require assistance, sign language interpreter or other accommodations, please call 215-684-4000. Please use the AT&T Relay Service for TTY.

Philadelphia Housing Authority
Building Beyond Expectations

Authorization

UN's ban casts doubt on legality of US plans to punish Syria

In addition to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon seemingly questioning the legality of U.S. plans to strike Syria without U.N. backing, he also suggested that a U.S. attack could lead to further turmoil in conflict-ravaged Syria, where the United Nations says more than 100,000 people have been killed in the country's nearly three years of civil war.

Ban was speaking to reporters after President Barack Obama won the backing of two top Republicans in Congress in his call for limited U.S. strikes on Syria to punish President Bashar al-Assad for using chemical weapons against civilians.

"The use of force is lawful only when in exercise of self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations charter and/or when the Security Council approves of such action," Ban said. "That is a firm principle of the United Nations."

Obama said Saturday he was "comfortable going forward without the approval of a United Nations Security Council."

REUTERS

Today's winner

To enter your submission for the Metro Photo Challenge to win a trip to Ghana, go to **www.metrophotochallenge.com.**

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$7.2B. Microsoft swallows Nokia's handset business

Two years after hitching its fate to Microsoft's Windows Phone software, Nokia collapsed into the arms of the U.S. software giant yesterday, agreeing to sell its main handset business for $7.2 billion.

Nokia, once the world's dominant handset maker, has failed to close a yawning lead opened up by Apple and Samsung in the highly competitive market for smartphones and will now concentrate on its networking equipment unit, navigation business and technology patents.

Nokia's boss Stephen Elop, who ran Microsoft's business software division before jumping to Nokia in 2010, will return to the firm as head of its mobile devices business. REUTERS

Unlawful seizure

WikiLeaks files complaint against Obama

WikiLeaks is expected to file a criminal complaint against President Barack Obama in Sweden.

The complaint "concerns the likely unlawful seizure of WikiLeaks property on 27 September 2010," according to a WikiLeaks press release.

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange alleges three encrypted computers, property of WikiLeaks, disappeared en route from Stockholm to Berlin, Germany, on that date. The computers are said to have war crime evidence committed by U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan. METRO

New iPhone expected as Apple asks media to event

Apple will host a special event at its Cupertino, Calif., headquarters on Sept. 10. / GETTY IMAGES

Cost. The new phone will be offered in a cheaper plastic casing at a lower price.

Apple, Inc. yesterday sent official invitations to a Sept. 10 event where it is expected to unveil the latest version of the iPhone, possibly in colors other than its trademark black and white.

"This should brighten everyone's day," the cryptic invitation read, under a graphic depicting pastel-colored circles surrounding a white Apple logo.

The company, which is making a focused effort to win over consumers in Asia where rivals Samsung Electronics and other Android manufacturers dominate, said in the invitation it will host a breakfast and presentation at its Cupertino, Calif., headquarters.

The company did not specify what the presentation will be about, but supply chain sources told Reuters in June that Apple is expected to launch two new models this year with new fingerprint technology as well as a cheaper version in plastic casing.

Apple plans to dress up the phone in five or six colors to differentiate it from the more expensive model that has traditionally come only in black and white, the sources said.

Analysts say the company needs a cheaper phone to drive faster growth in markets like China. REUTERS

China's market

48%

China's smartphone market is set to grow 48 percent this year, outpacing the global increase of 31 percent, according to industry forecasts.

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CULTURE

Twitter feed

We check in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Olivia Wilde wasn't on "Grey's Anatomy" and Justin Bieber doesn't know where he's going.

@oliviawilde: Met a psychic tonight who said she loved me on Grey's Anatomy... Thus my skepticism about psychics.

@justinbieber: Another plane. Where am I off to next?

FILMMAGIC

Johansson supports Hillary Clinton in 2016

Actress Scarlett Johansson was spotted on the red carpet for her new film, "Under The Skin," on Tuesday at the 70th Venice International Film Festival. In a recent interview with the U.K. edition of Harper's Bazaar, the actress proclaimed her love for Hillary Clinton. "I think Hillary Clinton would make a wonderful president," Johansson says. "I think we could only benefit from having someone in office who has been a mother. Women have a different perspective and appreciation of humanity because of that maternal instinct. It can only be a step forward."

Connick Jr. and Lopez join 'Idol'

After months of speculation, handsome Southern crooner Harry Connick Jr. and former "Idol" judge Jennifer Lopez are officially joining "American Idol 13" it was announced yesterday via a press release. The two join Keith Urban on the judge's panel; stalwart Randy Jackson will be back as "in-house" mentor with Ryan Seacrest as host.

"I have always been a huge fan of 'American Idol' and really enjoyed my time as a mentor on the show," said Connick. "I am truly excited to bring my perspective to 'American Idol.'" Meanwhile, Lopez simply tweeted, "#IDOL-2014TheRemix."

Let's hope this works — this past season was the lowest rated since the show began.

JENNIFER LOPEZ
GETTY IMAGES

HARRY CONNICK JR.
GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
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Cyrus: Everyone is 'overthinking it'

Miley Cyrus is finally speaking out about her earth-shatteringly bad performance at this year's VMAs to MTV News. "Every VMA performance, that's what you're looking for; you're wanting to make history. Me and Robin the whole time said, 'You know we're about to make history right now," she said in a video clip. "What's amazing is I think now, we're three days later and people are still talking about it. They're overthinking it. You're thinking about it more than I thought about it when I did it."

Oh, you weren't thinking? We couldn't tell. Really. It was such a beautiful and subtle performance — especially that demure touch of simulating sex with a foam finger — that it seemed like it was extraordinarily choreographed.

Talking points

HAYDEN PANETTIERE
GETTY IMAGES

Actually, Panettiere does not live with regrets

Hayden Panettiere is apparently having a hard time following her own advice, at least where body art is concerned. Recent paparazzi photos of the 24-year-old actress seem to reveal that she's in the process of having a tattoo removed from her back that reads, "live without regrets" in Italian. The tattoo runs down the left side of her back and includes a spelling error. So, she doesn't take her own tattoo's advice — whatever it might actually mean.

The Smiths sell mansion

Will and Jada Pinkett Smith have decided to ditch their sprawling, palatial Calabasas, Calif., compound, according to the Real Estalker blog. The Hollywood power couple is reportedly looking to get $42 million for the property, which features a 25,000-square-foot adobe-style main house, man-made lakes, a hotel-size pool and facilities for tennis, volleyball and basketball. The family sold a property on the Hawaiian island of Kauai for $20 million in 2011.

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Prostate Health Assessment Event

The Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson and Prostate Health International's Gary Papa Run are offering free prostate screenings as part of a research program. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men. Screening is important because prostate cancer shows no symptoms in its earliest stages.

Many organizations recommend prostate health assessment as part of men's healthcare.

Free screenings, including a blood test for prostate specific antigen (PSA), testosterone and cholesterol and a digital rectal exam, will take place at the following two locations:

- Wednesday, **September 18, 2013**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Kimmel Cancer Center – Bodine Building, 111 South 11th Street, Center City
- Friday, **September 27, 2013**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Jefferson at the Navy Yard – 3 Crescent Drive, Suite 100, South Philadelphia

Registration is required. To register for your free screenings, or for more information, call **1-800-JEFF-NOW**.

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Captain Ahab takes a bath

Fringe Festival. Renegade Company adapts the tale of the white whale.

Michael Durkin and the members of his Renegade theater company were kicking around ideas for re-imaginings of iconic literary works. "Moby-Dick" was on their short list for a while, but they wanted to find a way to do something atypical, not just a staged version of the novel.

They found a way.

"Bathtub Moby-Dick" is premiering tonight, part of the 17th annual Fringe Festival. The play, which, as the title suggests, takes place in a bathtub, was inspired by the "Seinfeld" episode where Kramer decides to spend most of his time in the shower, even going so far as to install a garbage disposal in the bathtub drain. But don't show up expecting a comedy.

"There are elements of humor — but it's more sad, pathetic humor," says Durkin, who wrote and directed the show. "It's about not wanting to deal with reality. We've all been in the shower in the morning and think, 'If I can just stay here the rest of the day, I'll be good.'"

The play centers on a father, played by Ed Swidey, who asks the audience for help setting up a birthday party for his son. But the son is dead, and the father soon becomes overwhelmed and retreats to the bathroom, where the action switches to a live feed from a nanny cam. The audience remains in the living room, watching on a screen as the actor creates an imaginary world based on Herman Melville's classic novel. A toy boat becomes the Pequod. First mate Starbuck is a rubber ducky.

The whole thing takes place in an apartment Durkin found through Airbnb, owned by a manager at a Center City restaurant who, conveniently, works evenings (and didn't want his name revealed, lest his home become a hot spot for site-specific theater).

Durkin incorporated existing elements of the apartment "into the fabric of the piece," he says. "We've done a couple of site-specific pieces. We're going more toward the realm of found spaces."

If you go

'Bathtub Moby-Dick'

Through Sept. 22, 6 p.m.
1816 Wharton St.
$10-$15
www.therenegadecompany.org

Ed Swidey creates an imaginary world in "Bathtub Moby-Dick." / DANIEL KONTZ

Mixology

A dash of sea salt

Medicine Womyn Mixology School is creating custom cocktails, inspired by the sea, to be sipped during the performance. The punch has a "seaweed, aloe, whiskey flavor," Durkin says, complemented by a salted rim.

"You drink it, and your mind gets taken to this world we're trying to create in a very literal way," he says.

RACHEL VIGODA
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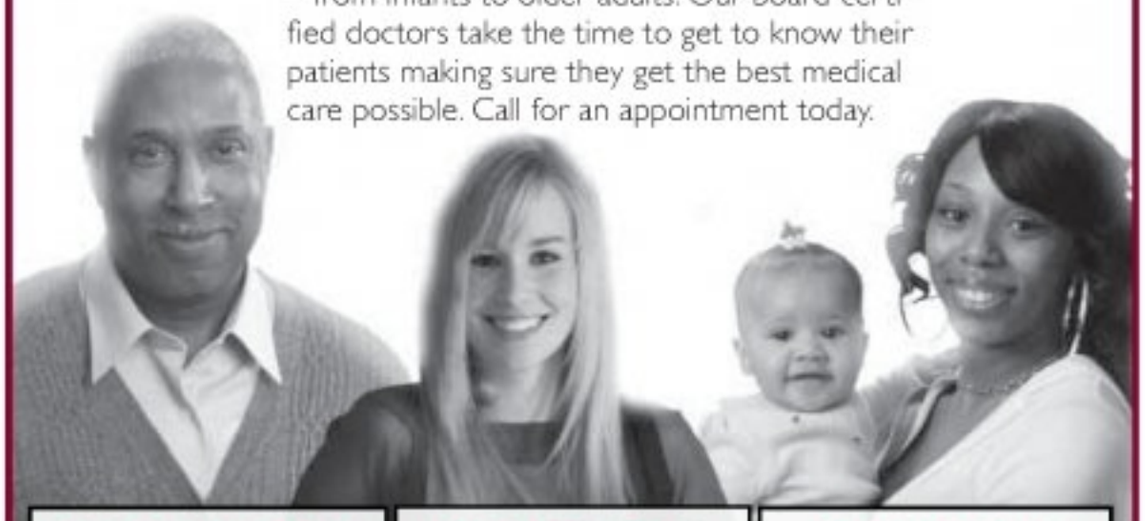

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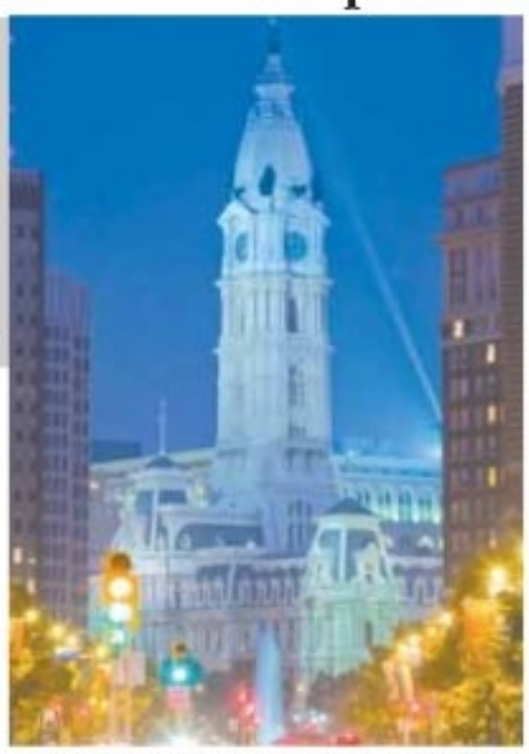

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GETTY IMAGES

MARK DUPLASS

"The League" actor talks about the joys of playing a remorseless jerk.

I DON'T WANNA GROW UP

To some, Mark Duplass is a filmmaker specializing in small dramedies like "The Puffy Chair," "Cyrus" and "Jeff, Who Lives at Home." To others, he's an actor who plays soulful slacker types in "Humpday," "Your Sister's Sister" and "Safety Not Guaranteed." But to most, arguably, he's Pete, the dude-ish fantasy football addict on "The League." Though it enters its fifth season starting tonight, Duplass says his character hasn't changed much — which is good.

How do you feel Pete has evolved over the seasons?
Here's the greatest thing about Pete and this show: Pete does not grow up. Every man-child movie or anything you watch, over the course of 90 minutes they learn their lessons and become good people. Pete's kind of a terrible human being. He's super shallow. He's very into fantasy football because he doesn't have very much else going on in his life. He really doesn't change — which I kind of love.

Do you think he'll ever change?
I think Pete's got a shot at beginning self-awareness around 75. But I wouldn't bet on it.

Are there any stray similarities between you and Pete?
No, I'm so different from him. He has this confidence — even if he doesn't work hard, he knows he's going to be fine in the world. I'm deathly afraid of failure and am pretty neurotic and I'm a workaholic because of that. If I don't create projects for myself, nothing will happen.

Quoted

"I think Pete's got a shot at beginning self-awareness around 75. But I wouldn't bet on it."

Duplass, on his character on "The League."

The cast mainly comprises comedic actors, whereas you and your wife (and co-star), Katie Aselton, come from movies.
The films that we've done are dramedies, so we have an appreciation for comedy. You just have to take ego out of it, and make sure you're not trying to be the funniest one in the scene all the time. You're just trying to make the funniest scene you can.

Bonus question

As an actor, what are the challenges of doing TV versus film and hanging on to the same character?
"The League" is a bit like summer camp. I get to show up and just be an actor and improvise and have fun. And then I walk away. We're not really arc-ing these characters long-term. We're watching them in their stasis — we're watching their eternal state of man-childishness. The real challenge is trying to stay creatively relevant and stay creatively inspired. The thing that helps us the most with "The League" is it's an improvised show. We work from outlines, so you can never get to that lazy space where you just memorize your lines and spit them out. You always have to be on your feet, you always have to be paying attention, because you never know what's going to happen. It keeps you vital.

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Apartments

What about the renters?

Renters and buyers work on different planes, but their respective markets influence one another.

"The rental market will continue to soften as the purchase market continues to rebound," says Chris Somers, of RE/MAX Access.

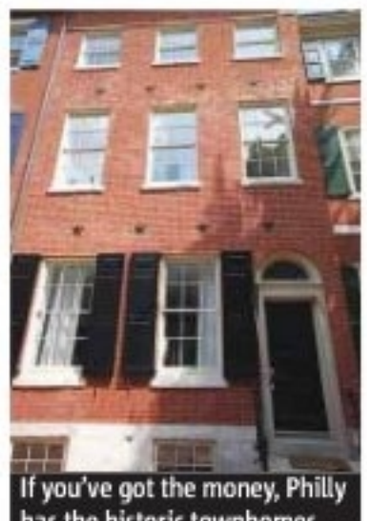
That soft market he's referring to is one where sellers – or in this case, landlords – outnumber buyers or renters. So renters will see a surplus of inventory with competitive prices to match.

FOR RENT

Predicting the real estate climate in Philadelphia

Prognostication. We talk to top realtors about their housing forecasts for fall.

Inventory might be low, but there are still properties on the market, like this condo with a balcony at 1420 Locust St., listed by the McCann Team. / MCCANN TEAM



If you've got the money, Philly has the historic townhomes.
FRANK L. DEFAZIO

The changing of the season traditionally brings changes to the housing market. We spoke with some of the area's most experienced realtors to learn what autumn has in store for buyers and sellers.

Economics 101

The market favors sellers right now, with a high demand for housing making the supply expensive. And it looks like it will stay that way through the season, with "no significant signs of inventory increasing," says Jim Onesti, of the McCann Team, part of Prudential Fox & Roach.

In other words, "As long as inventory is low, sellers will remain in the driver's seat and prices will continue to be driven up by so much competition," says Frank L. DeFazio, also of Prudential Fox & Roach.

Deciphering the jargon

Realtors like to talk about the "affordability index," which really just refers to people's ability to afford the house that they are buying. Income and location come into play when formulating the index. "Even with higher interest rates and higher prices, the affordability index remains very attractive for home buyers," says Chris Somers, owner of the Somers Team, part of RE/MAX Access.

Mike McCann, owner of the McCann Team, notes that interest rates are at historic lows, but others warn that could change with the cooler months. "Motivated buyers," says DeFazio, "might be fearful of rising interest rates and ultra-low inventory, creating feeding frenzies and multiple-offer situations on new listings."

Big tax hike?

Taxes will be something to keep an eye on, especially if you're looking to buy downtown. While it may not be apparent right now that taxes will be increasing, McCann believes there is something brewing.

"We have a concern next year with the city increasing taxes so dramatically," he says. "Many homes in and around Center City will see their taxes double and triple in 2014."

JULIA WEST
letters@metro.us

This home at 835 N. 28th St. is currently on the market, listed through DeFazio's Center City Team. / SERGIO ROJSTACZER

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Your fall home checklist

Advice. Angie's List has your guide to prepping for colder weather.

Labor Day, our last barbecue-filled beach day and the final hurrah for summer, is over. Now, it's time to focus on shopping for warmer clothes and prepping the house for fall. Angie's List gives us the tasks to get out of the way while the weather is still mild so that we can cozy up to our fave Cab Sav stress-free later.

Insulate your attic to reduce heat loss and save on your energy bill.
PIXLAND

Service your heating system

As much as 80 percent of emergency calls answered by heating specialists are the result of improper maintenance. Schedule an appointment soon so you can beat the rush and help avoid a breakdown in the middle of a freeze.

Check and replace filters

Fall is the perfect time to check your furnace filters. Efficient operation distributes heat better and cuts your energy costs. Plus, it's an inexpensive and easy task.

Protect your pipes

Have your plumbing looked at and water lines insulated. Cleaning all lines can help remove clogs. Clogs cause backups, which can freeze, then cause the weakening of pipes and bursting. Wrap your pipes with proper insulation to protect them.

Add insulation

This is a lowest-cost way to improve the energy efficiency of your home. The amount of insulation you should have depends on the climate you live in. Look in your attic: If you see exposed two-by-fours, you are due for more insulation.

Seal drafts

Caulk, seal and weather-strip where drafts are detected. Walk through your home with a lit stick of incense or a candle. Drafts will pull the smoke that direction, making it easier to determine where the cold air is seeping in.

Cold weather tip

Rake up the leaves

Fallen leaves will deprive your grass of crucial sunlight. Wet leaves can also lead to mold growth and are a breeding ground for pests.

Check the gutters

Gutter blockage of dead leaves and other muck can cause serious water damage. If they are clogged, hire a professional for a cleaning. If they are not clogged, check again after the leaves have fallen.

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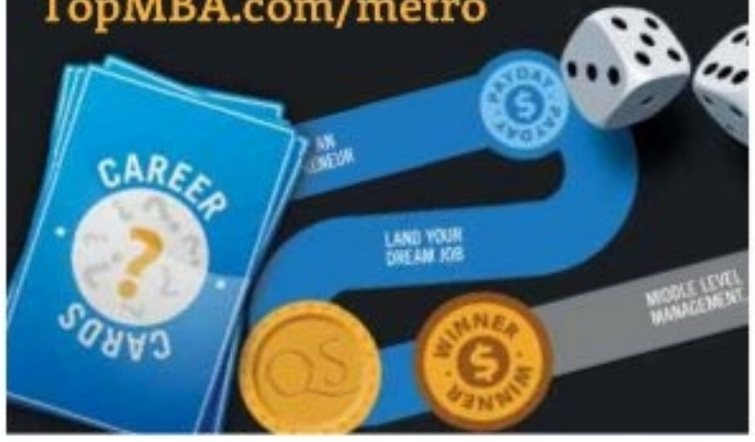

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You don't need a room makeover or shining new furniture to love hanging out in your home. Sometimes little things can perk up a place, like these adorable new candles from designer R.Nichols. We love the cute illustrations that depict all the adventures — gardening, biking, lounging on the beach — that we'd rather be doing right now.

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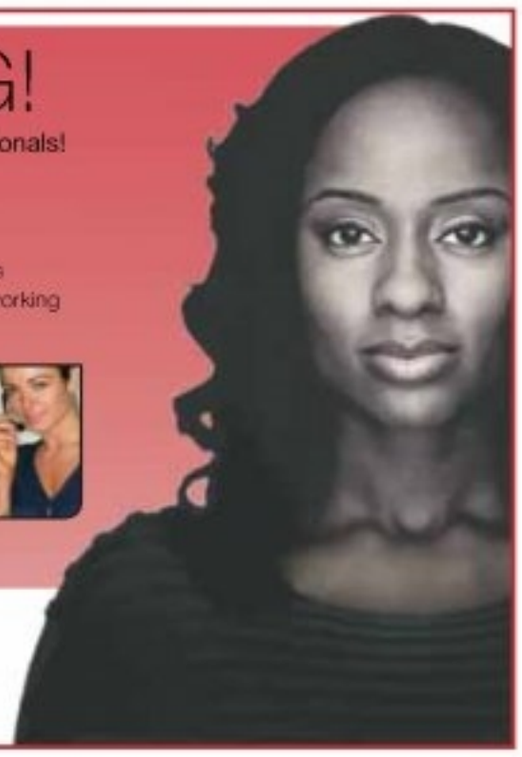

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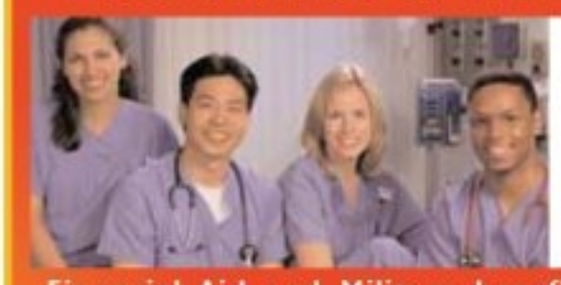

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Statement heels

Designer interview. Gianvito Rossi talks about working with his dad, Sergio, and upping a woman's sex appeal.

Italian-born shoe designer Gianvito Rossi grew up surrounded by women's shoes. Learning the ropes from his father — Sergio Rossi, who he worked under for a decade — Gianvito used his inherited and honed skills to launch his own label back in 2007. Built on luxury, he has since become a regular fixture on the Milan Fashion Week schedule, but his stamp will be noticed during New York Fashion Week as his sexy stilettos are sure to pop up on many a fashion editor at the shows. He's also been featured in the likes of The New Yorker, stocked in Barneys New York and coveted by a lengthy string of stylish names, including Natalie Joos and Leandra Medine. We caught up with the designer to get a greater understanding of how his creative process unfolds.

What was the biggest lesson you learned from your father?
There is always a way to make things better, and you should never stop looking for that.

Tell us about the first women's shoe you can remember.
It is very difficult to say. I really grew up among them.

Who or what inspires you?
My travels, people — but more generally, the images you see that subconsciously fuel your imagination.

Finish this sentence: "A woman in heels is ... "
Dangerous.

When you design, who gets to test out your creations?
The girls in the design team try them. It is fun!

Do you feel wearability or practicality ever hold you back creatively?
Yes. It is very easy to design new and strong styles, but it is only with the filter of these aspects you can do a quality design.

"I actually work for my visual pleasure," says Rossi. / PROVIDED

What excites you more: the pencil-to-paper process or the arrival of the finished product?
Drawing is a growing conceptual excitement, but when you get the finished shoe is a more physical, special moment.

Do you consider yourself to be led by the trends?
Trends are obviously considered while designing, but most of the time, I discard some ideas when they are too evident.

Some of your shoes are ultra-sexy. How do you capture sex appeal in a shoe design?
I always try to design a shoe that exalts a woman's natural sex appeal in a way I would be personally attracted by. I actually work for my visual pleasure!

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KID STUFF?

Video games aren't just about beefy dudes holding impossibly sized guns. Sometimes, developers look to the young, or the young at heart, for inspiration. Here are two titles that are ostensibly for kids, but offer enough gaming challenge for the sad, cynical minds of grown-ups.

"Rayman Legends" includes eye-popping visuals such as this one. / UBISOFT

Sidescroller

LAWRENCE BONK
LAWRENCE.BONK@METRO.US

'Rayman Legends'

Systems: 360/PS3/Wii U
Maker: Ubisoft

Rayman is a platforming mascot character that dates back to 1995. It was a time of O.J. It was a time of really, really slow Internet. In 2011, developer Ubisoft brought back the appendage-lacking thingamabob in a beast of a sidescroller called "Rayman Origins." Now, the bizarre little dude is back in "Rayman Legends."

If you played "Origins," or any Mario title, you'll know what to expect here. It's sidescrolling action at its purest. You jump on enemies. You look for secrets. It's an expert rendition of a well-worn formula, plus the cartoony graphics are simply stunning — like, call your ex-wife and try to get back together stunning. There are a variety of level types but some go on a bit too long. Luckily, there is also four-player co-op.

'Disney Infinity'

Systems: 360/PS3/Wii U
Maker: Disney Interactive Studios

Are you obsessed with Disney and its many properties? Do you love spending money? Then, boy, do we have the game for you. Disney Infinity lets you play, and create, in any of its myriad worlds. This includes Pixar flicks and even, inexplicably, the recent "Lone Ranger" movie. What are the games like? They vary. For instance, "Pirates of the Caribbean" is an "Uncharted"-like adventure. "The Incredibles" suggests a kid-friendly "Grand Theft Auto." They are all extremely well done. The hook? Each character and world is only unlocked by buying a related action figure (although the game comes with three).

This truly is an astounding achievement, albeit an incredibly expensive one. As of this writing, buying up all of the playsets so you can truly experience every nook and cranny of the game will set you back $250.

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Is your guy 'bigorexic'?

Health. Body dysmorphic disorder doesn't just hit women.

As many as 45 percent of men are afflicted by bigorexia or muscle dysmorphia, Dr. Raskin says. / GETTY IMAGES, PHOTODISC

Nicknamed "bigorexia," obsessive muscle mass bulking can damage mental and physical well-being, especially when it involves dangerous drug use.

"'Bigorexia' is the term we're using for men who are using substances like anabolic steroids and testosterone to get bigger and bigger," says Dr. Damon Raskin, an internist with a specialty in men's health. "The danger with taking supplemental testosterone is that it shuts off the body's ability to make it." Depression and liver problems are potential side effects. "There can also be changes in personality, including excessive aggression, breast enlargement and acne," he adds.

Similar to anorexia, bigorexia often affects teens who are prone to insecurity or unsure of their identity.

"They see these athletes using enhancement drugs and they think it's OK," says Dr. Raskin. "The person who is susceptible is someone who perhaps has a stressful home environment, low self-esteem or [has] been rejected by a girl or boy," he says.

Warning signs include increased aggression and overdoing diet and exercise. "If you see rapid physical changes and someone develops massive biceps in four to six weeks, that's not normal," says Dr. Raskin.

As with any drug dependency and psychological disorder, it's important to seek help. "It's necessary to get psychotherapy to find the underlying problems and treat them," the doctor advises. "Then, we work to balance out hormones."

Protein pointers

No drugs, no problem?

Even bigorexics who don't use drugs are prone to health problems from excessive exercise and consuming too much protein (found in meat, eggs and protein supplements).

"Overexercising can damage joints, especially in teens when bones aren't fully formed," Dr. Raskin says. "Eating lots of protein causes kidney damage and kidney stones."

For anyone trying to bulk up, take precautions. Dr. Raskin advises: "Bodybuilding should be done under careful supervision."

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This week in health news

More evidence that age-related memory loss is different from Alzheimer's

Scientists are learning more about memory loss. / DIGITAL VISION

Location of study: U.S.
Study subjects: Cadavers and mice
Results: Researchers think they've found what could be the prime cause of age-related memory loss — and it confirms a previously found distinction between memory loss due to aging and that of Alzheimer's. Using post-mortem human brain cells and those from mice, the Columbia University Medical Center study found that deficiency of the RbAp48 protein in the hippocampus significantly contributes to age-related memory loss, and that this form of memory loss is reversible. Alzheimer's disease, however, damages memory by affecting the entorhinal cortex, a brain region that provides major input pathways to the hippocampus. The findings were published on the online edition of Science Translational Medicine.
Significance: Previously, age-related memory loss was thought to be a precursor or symptom of the onset of Alzheimer's. "Our study provides compelling evidence that age-related memory loss is a syndrome in its own right, apart from Alzheimer's," says Nobel Prize winner Dr. Eric R. Kandel, who led the study.

Cardiac stents found to be safe for women, too

Location of study: Worldwide
Study subjects: 11,557 women
Results: Because clinical trials testing stents have mostly included men, cardiologists haven't felt confident that women could benefit from them. However, according to researchers at Mount Sinai Medical Center, they can be safe and effective for women, too. The findings were presented at the European Society of Cardiology Congress 2013 in Amsterdam.
Significance: Cardiac stents are inserted to open blocked heart arteries and reduce chest pain.

Native Americans at increased risk of PTSD

Location of study: U.S.
Study subjects: Native Americans
Results: Post-traumatic stress disorder is more common among Native Americans than among other Americans, according to a study published in the Journal of Traumatic Stress. Researchers at the University of Colorado Denver used two tests to estimate the lifetime prevalence of PTSD in two culturally distinct Native American reservation communities.
Significance: "For years, local wisdom has told us that PTSD is all-too-common among American Indians," says Dr. Jan Beals of the University of Colorado Denver. "[Our research] underscores the increased risk due to repeated exposure to traumatic events." In general, in the wider U.S. population, the lifetime prevalence of PTSD is estimated to be 7 to 8 percent.

New noninvasive colon cancer screening method shows promise

Location of study: Germany
Study subjects: 80 human colon tissue samples
Results: A new colon cancer-screening test that detects genetic variations could be an accurate predictor of colon cancer, according to a study conducted at the University of Potsdam and published in Cancer Prevention Research, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research. The test detects cancer-initiating genetic mutations in a stool sample and shows promise for an easily implemented, early colon cancer detection test that's noninvasive and an alternative to colonoscopies.
Significance: About 40 to 60 percent of colorectal cancer patients have genetic variations in the genes APC and KRAS, and these variations are also present in pre-cancers. "Colon precancer cells carrying these genetic variations are routinely shed in stool samples, but these cells can be detected in blood only after the cancer has advanced, so stool is better than blood if we are to catch these cancers at a very early stage," says Bettina Scholtka, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Nutritional Toxicology at the University of Potsdam.

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Horoscope

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Mix business with pleasure and socialize with people you like. If you create your own opportunities, you will gain respect.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Keep something secret if it will help you avoid opposition. Taking on too much will work against you.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. You've got all the right moves, and Lady Luck will give you numerous chances to use them. Take on any challenge you face with confidence and verve to come out ahead.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Not everyone will see things your way. Make changes that will improve your financial situation, but make sure you have the facts and figures straight.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. You'll have the edge when it comes to investments and medical concerns. Your common sense will lead to gains.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. Reflect upon and size up your situation and you will know exactly what you must do regarding a difficult situation.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Interaction will be the name of the game. Deal with your partners fairly, and success will come.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Take part in activities that present a mental or physical challenge. What you accomplish will make a lasting impression.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Now's the time to put your nose to the grindstone. You can make a difference if you offer solutions and are passionate. Don't hold back and don't run away from conflict. Play to win.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Not everyone will agree with you, but you should still follow your heart and make the moves that will bring you the best return.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. You can go far as long as you craft a detailed agenda and stick to it. An interesting approach to an old idea will pay off.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Do whatever it takes to bring about positive change in your life. Alter the scenery if you want a fresh perspective.

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	2							3
				5	6			
4		8		1		5	9	6

6		8	1	2				
1					8			2
5			4	6			9	
8							4	
		3	5		2	1		
	1							5
	8			9	5			7
2			6					9
				1	4	5		6

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

A picture's only worth a thousand English words

Last I heard, English was the language of America. If Metro wants to print a paper in another language, that's your First Amendment right, but please print MY morning paper in English. Also, in regards to the mess in Syria, by using chemical weapons, the Syrians have, in fact, threatened the entire world with the increased potential that someone else will use them! I do not believe it is America's place to respond. It should be international.

MARK NOBLE, VIA EMAIL

I was not happy with the front page of today's Metro in Spanish; I almost threw it away until I realized it was just the front page. What was the reasoning behind that? I thought in the good old U.S. we should be speaking English first and other languages second.

ELENA LAPORTE, VIA EMAIL

Metro's part of a good education

I'm sending this to let you know I've been reading your paper ever since I was in kindergarten (don't worry, I'm only in seventh grade), and I feel that you deserve to know (as if you don't know already) that your paper is truly awesome! Whether it's reading all about the daily crime, keeping up and laughing with Dorothy Robinson, glimpsing at my horoscope or playing (or at least trying to) the crossword, Metro made the first five years of my school train ride enjoyable. Now I'm leaping into my second year of being home-schooled and I make every effort to get a paper to know what goes on outside my doorstep.

MARK ZOOM, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Crossword

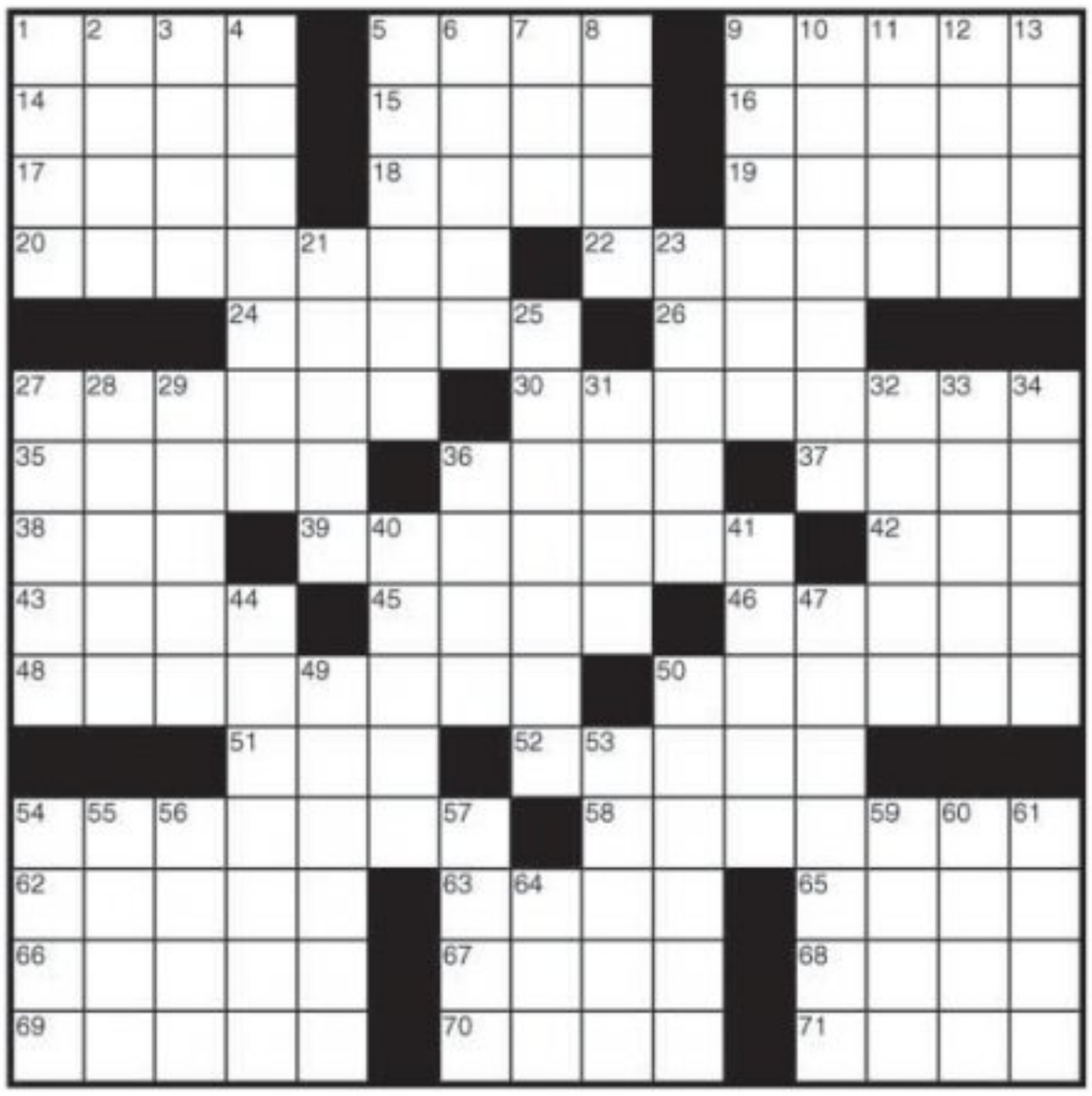
Across

1 Foreign visitors?
5 Driver with a handle
9 Marshal's star
14 Hindu attire
15 Berne's river
16 Really stupid
17 Took a gander
18 Orchard unit
19 Kind of blockade
20 Lord's estate
22 Squirms
24 Discrete
26 "Who sat down beside — . . ."
27 Raw deal (2 wds.)
30 Some voices
35 They can be split
36 "Run — Run"
37 Talking bird
38 Wrench target
39 Padded envelopes
42 JFK lander
43 Neat
45 Slue
46 Chick's cry
48 Let loose
50 Sleeve parts
51 Noon on a sundial
52 Faint flicker
54 North African port
58 Pet in a cage
62 Crocus "bulbs"
63 Annoying plumbing problem
65 Rochester's Jane
66 Speckled fish
67 Latin I verb
68 Links org.
69 Sweater letter
70 Crooner — Martin
71 Gourmet's interest

Down

1 Secondhand
2 Dunaway of films
3 Utah city
4 Pistol or sword
5 Forty winks
6 Wearing less
7 Prior to
8 Coral formation
9 Notebook
10 Reshuffled word
11 Brubeck of jazz
12 Troublesome bug
13 Electric swimmers
21 Pang
23 "— —You Knocking"
25 Factory machinery
27 Congo language
28 180-degree maneuver (hyph.)
29 Theme
31 Implored
32 Youngsters
33 Mooring site
34 Goes backpacking
36 Similar
40 Buzzing about
41 Hotfoot it
44 Upper limit
47 Reflexive pronoun
49 Senor's daily custom
50 Undermine
53 Dalai Lama's city
54 Takes steps
55 Petty in "Point Break"
56 Hot rum mixture
57 Malamute's load
59 Spelling error
60 Thus
61 Leafed through
64 WNW opposite

Yesterday's answer



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3 SPORTS

Phillies

Watch online

Find video and recap of last night's Phillies-Nationals game at: **Metro.us/sports.**

Roster moves

Birds add two to practice squad

The Eagles added two players to the practice squad yesterday.

Offensive lineman Isaac Remington and safety Keelan Johnson were added to the roster. The Birds can add one more player to the squad. Wide receiver Ifeanyi Momah remains unclaimed. METRO

New voice

Westbrook joins Comcast

Comcast SportsNet announced that Brian Westbrook will join "Eagles Pregame Live" and "Eagles Postgame Live."

Westbrook will contribute to other Eagles-related programming on the network. He is the franchise's all-time leader in yards from scrimmage. METRO

Busting out

Watkins lands with Dolphins

The Miami Dolphins signed former Eagles guard Danny Watkins. He was the 23rd overall pick in the 2011 NFL Draft. METRO

New Eagles coach Chip Kelly made Mike Vick work for everything this summer. / GETTY IMAGES

Vick set for real showdown in DC

NFL. The Eagles' QB worked hard to get back here. Now, it's time to shine on the national stage.

When Mike Vick officially won the Eagles' starting quarterback job, not many were surprised. He had outplayed Nick Foles, ever so slightly, in the two-man race.

Of course, when Chip Kelly made the decision to bring Vick back on a one-year deal, the wheels were already in motion. The coach issued the ultimate challenge to the former Pro Bowl quarterback by making him earn every rep, every single throw. Vick claimed the whole process made him fall back in love with football.

"I'm having fun playing football, and I fell in love with the game again and I am thankful for that," Vick said. "You've got to play this game with intense passion and purpose, and I thank Coach Kelly for what he has done for me ... giving me that confidence that I felt like I was losing at some point in my career."

As Vick prepares for the Sept. 9 season opener, he must keep the same mentality. He caught criticism for falling into some of the old vices — throwing interceptions, taking sacks, holding the ball too long — in his last preseason tune-up. Like anything in life, evaluating Vick's play can be subjective. Kelly remains confident in Vick's abilities.

"Part of being a great quarterback is making great decisions," Kelly said after the third preseason game. "So if people are covered, I would rather our quarterback hold on to the ball than release the ball."

Vick's focus now turns to the national stage in the highly anticipated battle with Washington's Robert Griffin III. While the two signal-callers won't be on the field at the same time, the game — magnified under the bright lights of "Monday Night Football" — carries extra weight.

"Anytime you have an opportunity to go against an opponent who has a great quarterback on the other end, it always makes for a great game," Vick told 94 WIP yesterday. "It's like Steve Young and Brett Favre back in the day."

Buckle up, Eagles fans. It's going to be a thrilling — if not bumpy — ride for the 2013 Eagles. For now, Vick seems like the right man for the job.

MICHAEL GREGER
michael.greger@metro.us

Different Vick

Vick's attitude isn't the only difference in 2013. He's also been healthy. Compare his 2013 preseason to 2012.

- Vick took 12 total snaps last year and threw just seven passes. He hurt his thumb in the first preseason game and left the second one with a rib injury. The Eagles shut him down after, since he was already entrenched as starter.
- Fast forward to 2013. Vick was in a heated battle with Nick Foles in training camp. He threw 38 passes in parts of three preseason games. He finished 28-of-38 for 383 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions.

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NFL preseason power rankings | by Mike Greger

No. 1

49ers (11-4-1*)

(*2012 record)
There's a lot of concern over the 49ers' muddled receiving corps, with Michael Crabtree being out. But don't hit the panic button. Colin Kaepernick is a legitimate MVP candidate, and the team has a bad taste in its mouth after losing the Super Bowl last season. Here's a name to watch, fantasy players: Quinton Patton.

No. 2

Patriots (12-4)

Does it matter who Tom Brady is throwing to? He'll turn Kenbrell Thompkins into a star, and Gronk comes back in Week 2.

No. 3

Seahawks (11-5)

No Percy Harvin hurts, but this team is built to run, with Russell Wilson, Marshawn Lynch and rookie Christine Michael.

No. 4

Broncos (13-3)

Hey, it's way too early for Peyton Manning to choke. The Broncos added Wes Welker, and they're using a new "Pistol" formation.

No. 5

Texans (12-4)

Can they take the next step? The team was outscored 83-42 in two meetings with New England, including a playoff loss.

No. 6

Falcons (13-3)

Matt Ryan finally won a playoff game. Time to win a few. This team is loaded on offense — playmakers all over the field!

No. 7

Packers (11-5)

We know the Pack is going to score points — lots and lots of points. Heck, Aaron Rodgers might throw for 5,000 yards.

No. 8

Bengals (10-6)

Maybe we're drinking the Kool-Aid after watching HBO's "Hard Knocks," but these don't look like your father's Bengals.

No. 9

Ravens (10-6)

It's comical they broke the bank to sign Joe Flacco when the running duo of Ray Rice and Bernard Pierce might be NFL's best.

No. 10

Saints (7-9)

Sean Payton's return can't be measured. He is the mastermind and mentor behind everything Drew Brees does.

No. 11

Redskins (10-6)

We should put an asterisk here. If Robert Griffin III stays healthy, the Skins could be as dangerous as anyone in the NFC.

No. 12

Lions (4-12)

It's the same old story in Motown; oodles of talent with questionable coaching and a lack of discipline.

No. 13

Giants (9-7)

They could easily go 6-10 or 11-5 — that's how much they are hanging in the balance. Never count out Eli Manning. Never.

No. 14

Colts (11-5)

It's going to be very easy to regress after losing Bruce Arians. But Andrew Luck hasn't skipped a beat in the preseason.

No. 15

Chiefs (2-14)

The team suffered a slew of injuries and an identity crisis at QB in 2012. Andy Reid has turned around franchises before.

No. 16

Steelers (8-8)

The window appears to be closing on the Steelers. The roster's average age is right around 30. That's old in the NFL.

No. 17

Rams (7-8-1)

The Rams went 2-1-1 in very tough NFC West. Drafting speedy WR Tavon Austin means QB Sam Bradford is out of excuses.

No. 18

Dolphins (7-9)

The Fins are the Pats' only real threat in the AFC East. They have the pass rush, but did they upgrade enough on offense?

No. 19

Bears (10-6)

Jay Cutler is another QB running out of excuses. He'll be running the West Coast offense that made Rich Gannon MVP.

No. 20

Vikings (10-6)

They upgraded at wideout significantly, but they'll go only as far as Adrian Peterson's bulletproof legs take them.

No. 21

Bucs (7-9)

The Bucs could be the biggest sleeper, assuming CB Darrelle Revis is full tilt and QB Josh Freeman can stay off the hot seat.

No. 22

Eagles (4-12)

Chip Kelly proved his exotic looks/unconventional ways will net points and yards. Problem is, can the defense get off the field?

No. 23

Browns (5-11)

All that losing is paying off. A stout defense mixed with an emerging young offense could breathe life into the Dawg Pound.

No. 24

Cowboys (8-8)

Dez Bryant and Tony Romo are getting along like a fat kid and cake. Sorry, heard this before. Not buying the hype.

No. 25

Cardinals (5-11)

The Cards' defense is stellar (No. 6 in NFC). The unit just got gassed. New QB Carson Palmer will keep the chains moving.

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Azarenka rallies, defeats Ivanovic at US Open in NY

U.S. Open. The world No. 2 lost the opening set, but the "other than Serena" option advanced anyway.

Azarenka beat Serena Williams two weeks ago. / GETTY IMAGES

Victoria Azarenka was considered going into the tournament to be maybe the only woman capable of stopping Serena Williams from winning her 17th Grand Slam singles title at the U.S. Open.

Azarenka, the No. 2 seed from Belarus, led Williams by a break in the third set of last year's Open final before ultimately losing, but she owns two victories this year over Williams on hard courts.

So when Azarenka lost the first set to No. 13 Ana Ivanovic yesterday, it appeared the women's draw might open up.

But a shaky Azarenka rebounded for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory that propelled her into the quarterfinals, where she will meet unseeded Daniela Hantuchova. Because her match against Ivanovic was postponed from Monday because of rain, Azarenka must turn around and play the quarterfinals today.

"I'm not concerned about the slow start, it's just a matter of getting that groove," she said.

Asked if she believed she can win the tournament, Azarenka added with a smile, "Yeah, if I didn't believe that then I wouldn't be here."

Ivanovic's well-known serve troubles reared their head in the second set, as she struggled with her toss and double-faulted five times en route to being broken four times.

ADAM ZAGORIA
sports@metro.us

Around the Open

Serena Williams played in the late session, but there was plenty of action early.

- No. 1 **Novak Djokovic** had no trouble, beating **Marcel Granollers**, 6-3, 6-0, 6-0.
- No. 5 seed **Li Na** has quietly marched through to the semifinals by beating **Ekaterina Makarova**, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-2.

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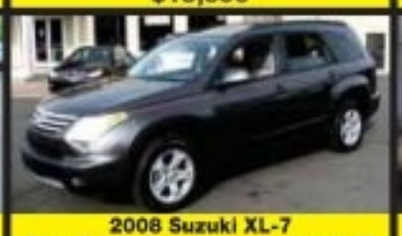

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